

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 276731
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO:AGR:JSWOLF

APPROVED BY:IO:SA:TBROWN

-----033015 181239Z /15

R 180613Z NOV 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION GENEVA 4770

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 276731

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM ROME DATED NOVEMBER 11, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO USUN NEW YORK, BONN, LONDON,
PARIS, OTTAWA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I E T R O M E 18621

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, FAO

SUBJ: FAO MEMBERSHIP: COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 272029

1. USDEL (BAKER) VOTED NOV. 14 AGAINST COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA
AND IN FAVOR OF ANGOLA, COMOROS, DPRK, DJIBOUTI, MOZAD QUE,
SAO TOME, SAND SEYCHELLES.

2. FOLLOWING VOTE USDEL MADE BRIEF STATEMENT ON CON-
STITUTIONAL ISSUE AFTER HAVING ALERTED AFRICAN GROUP
THAT HE COULD DO SO. REACTION WAS RESTRAINED DESPITE
DISEPPOINTMENT OVER NEGATIVE VOTES.

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3. BEGIN TEXT: I WISH ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT,
TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN EXHLANATION OF VOTE: THE
UNITED STATES VOTED AGAINST THE ADMISSION OF NAMIBIA AS
REPRESENTED BY THE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA FOR REASONS OF A
CONSTITUTIONAL NATURE. WE TAKE THE VIEW THAT A STATE OR NATION
IN THE SENSE MEANT BY ARTICLE 2 OF THE FAO CONSTITUTION
IS A TERRITORY IT CONTROLS OR ADMINISTERS. WE DO NOT CONSIDER

IT WISE FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS ORGANIZATION OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UN SYSTEM TO TAKE DECISIONS WHICH CREATE CONFUSION AS TO THE MEANING OF THE CONCEPT OF STATE OR NATION AS IT RELATES TO MEMBERSHIP IN UN ORGANIZATIONS.

FOR THIS REASON, THOUGH THE FAO'S GENERAL COMMITTEE TOOK PAINS TO UNDERLINE THE EXCEPTIONAL LEGAL NATURE OF THE APPLICATION OF NAMIBIA AS REPRESENTED BY THE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA BY CHARACTERIZING IT IN THIS MANNER, WE CANNOT AGREE WITH THE DECISION TAKEN IN FAVOR OF ITS FULL MEMBERSHIP. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN, IN OUR VIEW, A WISER COURSE TO ACCEPT THE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER, A STATUS IN WHICH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EQUALLY ABLE TO PURSUE THE BASIC PURPOSE OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CITED IN ITS APPLICATION. THAT PURPOSE, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, WAS TO ENCOURAGE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO HELP MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA CURRENTLY OUTSIDE OF THAT TERRITORY.

THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THAT OBJECTIVE. WE HAVE PARTICIPATED DIRECTLY AND THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS IN PROGRAMS TO ASSIST, TO FEED, AND TO TRAIN THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE WHO ARE PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR INDEPENDENCE. WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE THESE HUMAN NEEDS MET BY THE AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE THIS POSITION.

WE HOPE THE DAY WILL COME SOON WHEN THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA WILL BE REPRESENTED HERE BY A GOVERNMENT CREATED

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BY THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385. WE ARE WORKING ACTIVELY TOGETHER WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO ACCELERATE THE PACE OF THIS PROCESS. THEREFORE, MR. CHAIRMAN, LET ME STRESS AGAIN THAT MY VOTE IMPLIES NO RESERVATION ABOUT THE PRESENCE HERE OF DELEGATES REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA. WE JOIN IN WELCOMING THEM IN OUR MIDST. OUR VOTE IS MOTIVATED BY THE SERIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL CONCERNS REGARDING THE STATUS ACCORDED THEM WHICH I HAVE DESCRIBED. THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE VIEWS OF MY GOVERNMENT.

MY DELEGATION, ON BEHALF OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGION, MOST WARMLY WELCOMES THE DELEGATES OF ANGOLA, COMOROS, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DJIBOUTI, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE AND SEYCHELLES. END TEXT

4. THE FINAL VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE EIGHT NEW FAO MEMBERS WAS:

ANGOLA 115 FOR, 6 ABSTENTIONS, 5 AGAINST
COMOROS 121 FOR, 5 ABSTENTIONS, 1 AGAINST
DEM. P.R. KOREA 110 FOR, 10 ABSTENTIONS, 7 AGAINST

DJIBOUTI 123 FOR, 3 ABSTENTIONS, 1 AGAINST
MOZAMBIQUE 118 FOR, 6 ABSTENTIONS, 3 AGAINST
NAMIBIA 112 FOR, 11 ABSTENTIONS, 4 AGAINST
SAO TOME 122 FOR, 4 ABSTENTIONS, 1 AGAINST
SEYCHELLES 123 FOR, 1 ABSTENTION, 1 AGAINST
GARDNER UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, MEMBERSHIP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE276731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO:AGR:JSWOLF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770428-0035
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771141/aaaabipr.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e2c23816-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 272029
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 529135
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAO MEMBERSHIP: COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA
TAGS: AORG, PORG, EAGR, WA, AO, CN, KN, DJ, MZ, TP, SE, US, FAO, COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e2c23816-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009